

showing one of the limitations of claim 14. Claim 14 has been canceled, thereby rendering this objection moot.

Claim 14 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claim 14 has been canceled, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Claim 1 been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,891,591 (“Suzuki”). Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended herein, is patentably distinct from Suzuki for the following reasons, among others.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the housing as having a plurality of openings defined therein and extending through the housing. Claim 1 has also been amended to recite the mounting portion of each contact as comprising a mounting tab, the mounting tab extending through a respective one of the openings and the housing engaging the mounting tab so that the contact is retained by the housing.

The contacts (20) of Suzuki are secured to the housing (10) by leg portions (21c) on each contact. Suzuki spec. at col. 2, lines 43-47. The leg portions (21c) do not extend through an opening in the housing (10). *See, e.g.,* Figure 2 of Suzuki. Applicant respectfully submits that Suzuki neither teaches nor suggests a mounting tab extending through an opening in a housing, and the housing engaging the mounting tab so that a contact is retained by the housing.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and remarks. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-13 and 15 (which depend from claim 1) under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a) is also requested.

Claim 16 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent

No. 6,325,644 ("Lemke"). Claim 16 has also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,746,626 ("Kwiat") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,989,049 ("Walkup"). Applicant respectfully submits that claim 16, as amended herein, is patentably distinct from Lemke, Kwiat, and Walkup for the following reasons, among others.

Claim 16 has been amended to recite the housing as having a plurality of openings defined therein and extending through the housing, the plurality of contacts being compression contacts, the contacts comprising a mounting tab extending through a respective one of the openings, and each of the fusible elements being secured to a respective one of the mounting tabs so that the fusible element secures the associated contact to the housing.

The ground and power contacts, and the signal contacts of Lemke are not compression contacts. *See, e.g.*, reference numerals (66) and (84) in Figures 12 and 13 of Lemke, and Lemke spec. at col. 5, lines 9-25. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that Lemke neither teaches nor suggests an electrical connector comprising a plurality of compression contacts.

The contact element (28) of Kwiat is secured to a bottom surface (20) the housing (12) by a front leg (30) and a rear leg (32). *See, e.g.*, Kwiat spec. at col. 4, lines 32-43, and Figs. 2, 6, and 7 of Kwiat. The Examiner notes in the office action that Kwiat lacks a plurality of fusible elements. Office Action at pg. 7, lines 5, 6.

Walkup discloses soldering a tail (76) of a contact (7) to a printed circuit board (9) using a solder ball (79). Walkup spec. at col. 5, lines 52-56 and 63-65. The contact (7) does not comprise a mounting tab extending through an opening in a housing. *See, e.g.*, Figs. 7A-7D of Walkup.

The contact element (28) of Kwiat is secured to the housing (12) by a front leg (30) and the rear leg (32), as noted above. Applicant respectfully submits that Kwiat and Walkup neither teach nor suggest securing the solder ball (79) of Walkup to the contact element (28) of Kwiat to secure the contact element (28) to the housing (12) of Kwiat. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that Kwiat and Walkup neither teach nor suggest fusible elements secured to a mounting tabs so that the fusible element secures an associated contact to a housing.

Withdrawal of the rejections of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a) is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and remarks. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 17-24(which depend from claim 16) under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a) is also requested.

Claim 25 been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,241,535 (“Lemke II”). Applicant respectfully submits that claim 25, as amended herein, is patentably distinct from Lemke II for the following reasons, among others.

Claim 25 has been amended to recite inserting a plurality of compression contacts into a housing.

The contact terminals (28) and the receptacle connectors (52) of Lemke II are not compression contacts. *See, e.g.,* Figures 3-7 of Lemke II, and Lemke II spec. at col. 4, lines 3-22 and, generally, col. 5, lines 57-67 and col. 6. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that Lemke neither teaches nor suggests inserting a plurality of compression contacts into a housing.

DOCKET NO.: BERG-2572/C2685

PATENT

Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and remarks. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 26-33 (which depend from claim 16) under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a) is also requested.

Applicant believes that the foregoing comprises a full and complete response to the Office Action of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,



Frank T. Carroll
Registration No. 42,392

Date: September 25, 2002

WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 568-3100

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**In the Claims:**

Claim 14 has been canceled.

Claims 1, 16, and 25 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) An electrical connector, comprising:

a housing having a retention structure, the housing having a plurality of openings defined therein and extending through the housing; and
a plurality of contacts extending through said housing, each said contact including:

a medial section;
a mounting portion extending from one end of said medial section and comprising a mounting tab, the mounting tab extending through a respective one of the openings and the housing engaging the mounting tab so that the contact is retained by the housing; and
a compressive mating portion extending from another end of said medial section and having a distal end,
wherein said retention structure of said housing engages said distal ends of said compressive mating portions of said contacts to preload said contacts.

16. (Amended) An electrical connector, comprising:

a housing, the housing having a plurality of openings defined therein and extending through the housing;

a plurality of compression contacts extending through said housing and exhibiting a preload, each of the contacts comprising a mounting tab extending through a respective one of the openings; and

a plurality of fusible elements, each secured to a respective one of [said contacts] the mounting tabs so that the fusible element secures the associated contact to the housing.

25. (Amended) A method of making an electrical connector, comprising the steps of:

providing a housing;

inserting a plurality of compression contacts into said housing;

securing a fusible element[s] to each of said contacts; and

preloading said contacts.

New claims 34-37 have been added:

34. (New) An electrical connector, comprising:

a housing having a retention structure, the housing structure having a plurality of channels, a plurality of recesses, and a plurality of openings formed therein, each of the openings extending between a respective one of the channels and a respective one of the recesses; and

a plurality of contacts each mounted in a respective one of the channels, each of the contacts comprising:

a medial section;

a mounting portion extending from one end of the medial section and comprising a mounting tab, the mounting tab extending through a respective one of the openings; and

a compressive mating portion extending from another end of said medial section and having a distal end, wherein the retention structure of said housing engages the distal ends of the compressive mating portions of the contacts to preload the contacts.

35. (New) The electrical connector of claim 34, further comprising a plurality of fusible elements, each of the fusible elements being secured to the mounting portion of a respective one of the contacts.

36. (New) The electrical connector of claim 35, wherein each of the fusible elements is positioned at least in part within a respective one of the recesses.

37. (New) The electrical connector of claim 35, wherein the housing comprises a plurality of projections each located within a respective one of the openings, each projection securely engaging a respective one of the mounting tabs.